



DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

May 11, 2006

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO FILE: **WR-1**

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**ESTABLISH A DESIGNATION IN THE FLOOD CONTROL  
DISTRICT FUND FOR BIG TUJUNGA DAM SEISMIC  
REHABILITATION AND SPILLWAY MODIFICATION PROJECT  
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5  
4 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY  
OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:**

1. Approve the establishment of a designation in the Flood Control District Fund this fiscal year for financing the Big Tujunga Dam Seismic Rehabilitation and Spillway Modification Project.
2. Approve the enclosed \$12,200,000 appropriation adjustment for this designation in the current fiscal year.
3. Approve changes to the Fiscal Year 2006-07 Flood Control District Fund budget to allow designation of an additional \$18,500,000 for this project.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION FOR RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

This designation will allow Public Works to set aside funds for this exceptionally large infrastructure improvement project, which is too costly to finance in any single year. Currently, the Big Tujunga Dam Seismic Rehabilitation and Spillway Modification Project is estimated to cost approximately \$78,000,000. Some financing is expected to be available from Federal, State, and local sources, but a significant portion of the financing will be from the Flood Control District Fund.

Constructed in 1931, Big Tujunga Dam is a flood control and water conservation structure located 10 miles northeast of Sunland in Big Tujunga Canyon (Supervisory District 5). It is located in a seismically active area and the potential for earthquake damage is high. In 1976 the California State Division of Safety of Dams temporarily limited the full storage capacity of this dam due to concerns regarding its ability to withstand a seismic event at full capacity. The State has directed Public Works to move forward with a rehabilitation project to permanently make the dam seismically safe. Additionally, the State is requiring the spillway be modified to safely pass the Maximum Probable Flood.

We have prepared plans to construct a concrete buttress on the downstream face of the dam and a new spillway at the dam crest. In addition to the public safety benefits of preventing damage associated with major flood and earthquake events, the proposed rehabilitation of Big Tujunga Dam will improve flood control, increase sustainability of local water supply by capturing additional stormwater runoff for recharge in the San Fernando Groundwater Basin (located in Supervisory District 3), and provide environmental enhancements to Tujunga Wash, including those to benefit the Santa Ana Sucker, a Federally listed species. Consequently, the project has received stakeholder support from U. S. Forest Service, State Department of Water Resources, California Department of Fish and Game, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, City of Glendale, City of Burbank, and Upper Los Angeles Area Watermaster.

Funding of \$12,200,000 in Fiscal Year 2005-06 and \$18,500,000 in Fiscal Year 2006-07 was budgeted for construction of the project based on the 60 percent complete design plans in 2004. The recent unprecedented increase in the cost of constructing major civil projects has resulted in the current cost estimate of \$78,000,000 based on the completed final design plans and repairing storm related damage as a result of the record setting 2004-05 storm season. We recommend establishing a designation in the Flood Control District Fund to preserve these budgeted funds currently dedicated to this project while we seek additional funding from Federal, State, and local sources to enable us to build this project of regional benefit.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

This action is consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goal of Fiscal Responsibility as this recommendation will provide sufficient funds to restore an important component of our flood control system to a safe and effective operating condition. It also satisfies the Goal of Service Excellence since the flood protection and additional water conservation provided by the project will improve the quality of life in the County.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The current cost estimate for the Big Tujunga Dam Seismic Rehabilitation and Spillway Modification Project is \$78,000,000. Public Works plans to set aside available funds each year until the financing for this project is complete. The enclosed appropriation adjustment establishes a designation to set aside \$12,200,000 in the Flood Control District Fund in the current year for this project. Your Board's approval will also allow a change to the Flood Control District's Fiscal Year 2006-07 budget in order to set aside an additional \$18,500,000 in the designation account for this project. By setting aside these funds, we anticipate to have designated a total of \$30,700,000 by the end of Fiscal Year 2006-07 for this project.

Public Works will continue to seek Federal and State grants and pursue local financing to partially reimburse the cost of this project.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

A Mitigated Negative Declaration for the construction of the Big Tujunga Dam Seismic Rehabilitation and Spillway Modification Project was approved by your Board on January 31, 2006.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of this designation will have no negative impact on current County services.

### **CONCLUSION**

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD L. WOLFE  
Director of Public Works

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Enc.

cc: Auditor-Controller, Chief Administrative Office, County Counsel

## REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT

NO. 690

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKSApril 27, 2006

## AUDITOR-CONTROLLER.

THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT IS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THIS DEPARTMENT. WILL YOU PLEASE REPORT AS TO ACCOUNTING AND AVAILABLE BALANCES AND FORWARD TO THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR HIS RECOMMENDATION OR ACTION.

## ADJUSTMENT REQUESTED AND REASONS THEREFOR

**FISCAL YEAR 2005-06****4 - VOTES**SOURCES

Department of Public Works

Flood Control District Fund

Services and Supplies

B07 - PW - 47000 - 2000-\$12,200,000

USES

Department of Public Works

Flood Control District Fund

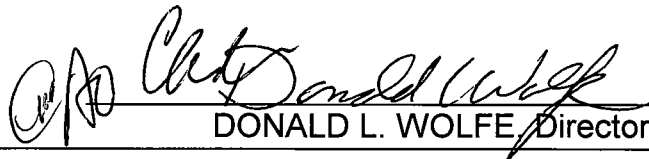
Designation for Big Tujunga Dam

B07 - 3065 - \$12,200,000

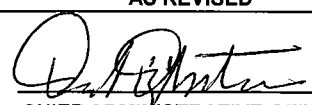

JUSTIFICATION

This adjustment is necessary to set aside financing in a designated account for the Big Tujunga Dam Seismic Rehabilitation and Spillway Modification Project, as per the attached Board Letter.

(Control No. 06-15)

  
DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

## CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

REFERRED TO THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR---	ACTION	APPROVED AS REQUESTED	AS REVISED
✓ RECOMMENDATION		MAY 2, 2006	 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER BY  NO. 352		APPROVED (AS REVISED): BOARD OF SUPERVISORS	BY _____ DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK
	MAY 2, 2006		